

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-53 and 55 have been rejected.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 45, 46, 48 and 51-53 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Whitaker et al. (hereinafter "Whitaker", "*A Framework for Level Set Segmentation of Volume Datasets*").

Regarding claim 1, Whitaker describes a method for editing a geometrical model with a level set modeling surface editor operator in the abstract lines 1-8. Whitaker also describes defining a level set model having at least one deformation thereon to be modified in section 3 2nd ¶ lines 5-10 ("...the level set formulation provides a set of numerical methods that describes how to manipulate...a volume..."). Whitaker describes performing a level set surface editing operation on a level set surface model, where the operation is defined by a level surface editing operator in section 3 2nd ¶ lines 3-7 ("...the surface deformation process moves the surface model...One must choose those properties of the input data to which...the shape of the model will have in the deformation..."), as shown in Figure 5, where it is described that a user is given the choice of whether to apply particular data to the surface deformation in section 4.2 1st ¶ lines 5-7 ("One must choose those properties of the input data to which the model will be attracted...in the deformation process...There are a variety of surface-motion terms that can be used..."), therefore the edge data disclosed in the 3rd ¶ of section 4.2 could be excluded from the deformation operation performed on the level set model surface. Whitaker also describes that an operation modifies the at least one deformation in section 6 1st ¶ lines 3-5.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant has amended claim 1 to add the limitations of claim 54 and all intervening claims. The Examiner has objected to claim 54 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 1 is now allowable.

All dependent claims, being dependent on allowable base independent claim 1, are themselves allowable.

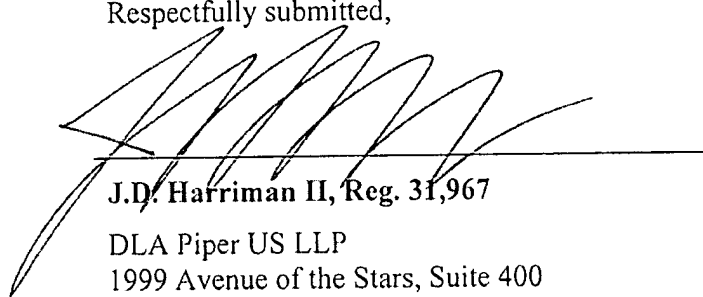
In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request that this application be reexamined and that the claims, as amended, be allowed.

Applicants also submit herewith a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME and tender the government fees for the extension.

Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 6, 2007

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.D. Harriman II', is written over a horizontal line.

J.D. Harriman II, Reg. 31,967

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